

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 17, 2008

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 23, 2008

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 2, 2008

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2007–08 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2706

Introduced by Assembly Member Feuer

February 22, 2008

An act to amend Section ~~12020~~ *12020.1* of the Penal Code, relating to dangerous weapons.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AB 2706, as amended, Feuer. Dangerous weapons.

Existing law provides that any person in this state who manufactures or causes to be manufactured, imports into the state, keeps for sale, or offers or exposes for sale, or who gives, lends, or possesses, among other dangerous weapons, metal knuckles, as defined, is punishable by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one year or in the state prison.

This bill would recast “metal knuckles” for these purposes as “metal or composite knuckles” and would expand the definition of that term to include instruments or devices made of other materials and that contain other features, as specified.

Existing law provides that any person who commercially manufactures or causes to be commercially manufactured, or who knowingly imports into the state for commercial sale, keeps for commercial sale, or offers or exposes for commercial sale, any hard plastic knuckles, as defined, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

This bill would recast “hard plastic knuckles” for this purpose as “composite knuckles” and also prohibit their possession.

By expanding the scope of an existing crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 *SECTION 1. Section 12020.1 of the Penal Code is amended*
2 *to read:*

3 12020.1. Any person in this state who *possesses*, commercially
4 manufactures, or causes to be commercially manufactured, or who
5 knowingly imports into the state for commercial sale, keeps for
6 commercial sale, or offers or exposes for commercial sale, any
7 ~~hard plastic~~ *composite* knuckles is guilty of a misdemeanor. As
8 used in this section, ~~“hard plastic knuckles”~~ *“composite knuckles”*
9 means any device or instrument made wholly or partially of ~~plastic~~
10 *composite materials other than a medically prescribed prosthetic*
11 that is not a metal knuckle as defined in paragraph (7) of
12 subdivision (c) of Section 12020, that is worn for purposes of
13 offense or defense in or on the hand, and that either protects the
14 wearer’s hand while striking a blow or increases the force of impact
15 from the blow or injury to the individual receiving the blow. The
16 ~~plastic composite materials~~ contained in the device may help
17 support the hand or fist, provide a shield to protect it, or consist
18 of *surfaces, edges, ridges, points*, projections, or studs that would
19 contact the individual receiving a blow.

20 *SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to*
21 *Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because*
22 *the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school*
23 *district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or*
24 *infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty*
25 *for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of*
26 *the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within*

1 *the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California*
2 *Constitution.*

3
4
5
6
7
8

**All matter omitted in this version of the bill
appears in the bill as amended in the
Assembly, May 23, 2008 (JR11)**

O